

oppressive rhetoric against the African American Community throughout the past and at the present time.

Part of the African American fight for freedom includes the struggle to create space for African American people to thrive and succeed. Throughout history in the United States, African Americans have resisted unjust persecution through brave and courageous acts including protests, sit-ins, boycotts, marches, and political rallies, to name a few. Their efforts have been successful, inspiring, and have created significant change in the values and belief systems of America. The struggle is ongoing, and there is much more to be done. It is the responsibility of every American to create an environment that supports equality and freedom for all.

This month and always, it is important that we honor America's greatest advocates for equal rights. Throughout history in Northwest Indiana, which I proudly represent, there have been many who have taken up this fight. One such individual is the Honorable Calvin D. Hawkins, Lake County Superior Court Judge, who continues a legacy of civil service to the community of Northwest Indiana. Judge Hawkins has been a civil rights activist his entire life. While still in his teens, he participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963 before embarking on his distinguished legal career. Judge Hawkins was appointed to the bench in 2007 by then Governor Mitch Daniels, and he has faithfully served with purpose, integrity, and respect. Outside of the courts, he has championed numerous causes that support equality and civil liberties for African Americans, and he has also proven himself to be a tireless advocate for the youth in his community. In 2008, Judge Hawkins launched a stay-in-school initiative, and his efforts have had a major positive impact on the lives of students throughout the area. In addition, he has served as the president of the board of directors for Indiana Legal Services, an organization that provides free legal assistance to those in need. For his noteworthy leadership and unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for all people, Judge Hawkins is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring those who fought, and continue to fight, for civil rights and justice. As we pay tribute, let us remember their profound perseverance and sacrifice in the struggle to build a better Nation, more equal and free.

**RECOGNIZING BOB AND TERRY
WITMER**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob and Terry Witmer for receiving the honor of the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award. Terry has spent her life in North Texas. She grew up in Denton and has a nursing career that expands 20 years. In 2014, Terry oversaw the housing component of the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. Two years later, Terry became the charter appointee for the Denton County

Homelessness Leadership Team. She has been a long-time advocate for the homeless community in North Texas and has made a profound impact on improving the livelihoods of those citizens that have been affected. Both she and her husband, Bob, have been active members of the Denton Community for decades and they helped form vital nonprofits in Denton County such as The Daily Bread, which serves food to individuals in need. They have served on numerous boards of nonprofits. Bob is a board-certified tax attorney and currently serves as a professor at the University of North Texas. In 2016, he started the North Texas Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. This clinic allowed local graduate students to assist lower-income members of the community with specialized and qualified tax assistance. This provided a wonderful opportunity to members of the community and helped graduate students gain experience before applying to bigger employers. Bob has not only been a valuable part of educating the younger generation in North Texas, but he has been involved in Veterans Affairs. Terry referred Veteran clients to Bob's clinic from the Veteran Community Navigator pilot program. When Bob learned from Terry that clients of the VCN program were working in crowded, unsuitable offices, he contacted Veterans Affairs and mobilized a community effort with donations and volunteers to renovate the office into what is now known as the Denton County Veteran Center. This center provides critical and quality care to all Veterans who are in need. These actions are remarkable, yet Bob did not stop there. He went on to mobilize the community to help the United Way of Denton County create the Veterans Mental Health Annex, which expands access to mental health services for veterans. These incredible actions have not gone unnoticed. In November of 2022, they were recognized by the Board Members of the United Way of Denton for their efforts and impact on helping those affected by homelessness and mental health in their community, especially veterans. The Witmer's have invested their time and talent into serving their community. I am honored to recognize Bob and Terry's achievements today and I am humbled to share a home in North Texas with this couple of such high character. Bob and Terry's family, their community, their state, and their nation are made better by their selfless contributions and dedication to others. I thank Bob and Terry Witmer, for their excellent work, and also thank the United Way of Denton County Board of Directors for recognizing them for the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award of 2023.

**RECOGNIZING MR. GERMINIANO
AND ANGELES TUBAO, OUT-
STANDING CITIZENS AND BUSI-
NESS OWNERS IN THE 51ST CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Germiniano "Gerry" Fuentes Tubao and Angeles "Angie" Marijana Tubao, outstanding citizens and business owners in the 51st Congressional District.

Mr. And Mrs. Tubao immigrated in the 1950s from the Philippines to the United States, where they met and eventually married in Worcester, Massachusetts. Mr. Tubao served in the U.S. Navy for more than 20 years as a sailor and Angie worked as a nurse at National City's Paradise Valley Hospital. They have worked in the real estate market in the 51st District for more than 60 years, establishing a legacy of property ownership, management, and development throughout the region.

Mr. Gerry Tubao is the principal founder and developer of Market on 8th, located in National City and established as South County's first ethnic-themed food hall and beer garden. Market on 8th pays tribute to National City's radiant history with its collection of original murals, artwork, and vintage photos.

Mr. Tubao is retiring from managing his family-owned company, Pacific Point Properties, and will continue to serve as a consultant. He and his wife Mrs. Angie Tubao leave a legacy of commitment and generosity to the residents of National City and the larger San Diego community.

Mr. and Mrs. Tubao have written a memoir of their history in a book called "A Land of Opportunity," which tells their story and perspective on faith, resilience, and prosperity. Their sons Joel Jon and Gene Joseph will succeed Mr. Tubao in shared leadership roles, continuing the business and serving the community in various volunteer roles.

**CONGRATULATING THE BRANDON
HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL
TEAM ON WINNING THE 2022
MHSAA 6A VOLLEYBALL CHAM-
PIONSHIP**

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Brandon High School volleyball team and Coach Kelsa Walker on their remarkable achievement of winning the 2022 MHSAA 6A Volleyball Championship. This victory is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the sport of volleyball.

Throughout the season, the team displayed an unwavering determination to succeed and a desire to push themselves to new heights. Their teamwork and camaraderie on the court was a true demonstration of what can be achieved when individuals come together and strive for a common goal.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Coach Kelsa Walker and her staff who played a critical role in the team's success. Their guidance, support, and leadership have been instrumental in helping the team reach their full potential and in inspiring the players to strive for excellence.

This state championship is a source of pride for the entire Brandon community and serves as a reminder of the importance of hard work, dedication, and teamwork. The young athletes on the Brandon High School volleyball team have set an excellent example for others to follow, and we look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the future.

In recognition of their achievement, I again congratulate the Brandon High School